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CALIFORNIA WING CONDUCTS FIRST SQUADRON LEADERSHIP SCHOOL AND CORPORATE LEARNING COURSE OF 2005

Fifty-three members from the California Wing graduated from the first Squadron Leadership School and Corporate learning Course of 2005, held at the Air National Guard 222nd Combat Communications Squadron in Costa Mesa over the weekend of Feb. 26 and 27.

The members came from the local Southern California area, some from over 200 miles away, to attend these weekend long courses taught by officers of the California Wing who shared their knowledge and expertise in many areas of how the Civil Air Patrol performs its three primary missions of Aerospace Education, Cadet Programs, and Emergency Services.

“Part of the cadet promotion process is academic, and likewise the Senior Members attend classes to advance their education and training,” said Col. Virginia Nelson, the California Wing Commander. “Schools like the SLS and the CLC are not just required for promotion, they help make better CAP Senior Members,” Nelson said.

The Squadron Leadership School focuses on how the three missions of the Civil Air Patrol are accomplished at the squadron level, while the Corporate Learning Course addressed how those missions are performed at the Wing level. Both courses show how the individual member, the Squadron, and the Wing interact at every level to accomplish all three missions. These schools also help prepare the member to serve on the staff at either the squadron or the wing level.

These schools are not just for Senior Members. Cadets having earned the Gen. Billy Mitchell award, like Cadet 2nd. Lt. Blanca Contreras of the Los Angeles Cadet Squadron 138, are eligible to attend the Squadron Leadership School.

“I was not sure what to expect at first,” said Contreras, who has attended and served on the staff of all the Integrated Leadership Program schools up to the Senior Non Commissioned Officer Academy. “The SLS was a very different point of view from what I have experienced as a cadet, I was able to finally see both sides of CAP,” Contreras said. “It was very motivating and is something I will take back to my cadets to help motivate them to learn how the cadet program is run from a Senior Member point of view,” she said.

The members who graduated from the SLS and CLC have proven they are willing to take the next step in their Civil Air Patrol careers and to help make California Wing the best.

“I was really encouraged to see 53 people at the SLS and CLC who cared enough about their squadrons and about the Civil Air Patrol that they dedicated an entire weekend to attending these valuable classes,” Nelson said.